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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR US XO

SUBJ: KRASNAYA ZVEZDA REPORTS U.S. PLAN FOR DIEGO GARCIA BASE

REF: STATE 012770

1. KRASNAYA ZVEZDA JANUARY 23 PROMPTLY PICKED UP STORY OF U.S. INTEREST IN ESTABLISHING NAVAL BASE ON DIEGO GARCIA. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 01106 231703Z

BRIEF REPORT CITES NEW YORK TIMES (WITHOUT REFERENCE TO

ALSOP COLUMN REFTEL) TO EFFECT THAT PENTAGON PLANS CONSTRUCTION OF LARGE NAVAL BASE ON ISLAND TO INCREASE U.S.

NAVAL PRESENCE IN INDIAN OCEAN. ARTICLE SAYS PENTAGON

SPOKESMAN ANNOUNCED THAT U.S. HAS ALREADY CONDUCTED PRELIMINARY

NEGOTIATIONS WITH UK FOR ESTABLISHING BASE.

2. REPORT CONFINES FOCUS TO INDIAN OCEAN AND MAKES NO ATTEMPT, AS DID ALSOP, TO TIE THE PROPOSAL FOR BASE TO ME STRATEGIC SITUATION. ARTICLE ALSO GIVES NO HINT OF ALLEGED US-UK DIFFERENCES OVER BASE. DUBS

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